

Heber Named for Pioneer Leader

By SHIRLEY CHATWIN

HEBER CITY — "Now you people have named your little town after me. I want you to see to it that you are honest, upright citizens and good Latter-day Saints that I may not have cause to be ashamed of you". This was the advise given to early settlers of Heber by Heber C. Kimball when he learned that they had named their community after him.

Heber City was first settled in 1859. Nearly all of the early pioneers had been converted to the Church in Great Britain. Heber C. Kimball, counselor to President Brigham Young had been in charge of the first group of missionaries to the British Isles. Out of their love for him the early settlers decided to name their town in his honor.

Community life was well developed by 1862 and the seeds of prosperity and growth planted so well by the early settlers were already beginning to bear fruit. Living was difficult, but in overcoming privation and hardship these pioneers found a peace and contentment some say can't be equalled in the modern world of conveniences and "super-civilization."

Wasatch county government began that year (1862) with the formation of the county court and appointment of select men as officers of the court.

The influence of these early settlers is still with us today in the ground work they laid and in their sturdily constructed, utilitarian buildings.

The old Heber tabernacle and social hall are both in the national register of historic places and are a major tourist attraction.

The Tabernacle is closely

associated with the history of the Heber Valley.

The Tabernacle was built of religious, cultural and social aspirations of the settlers of red sandstone quarried from the mountains east of Heber near

Lake Creek. Work begun in 1887 and it was dedicated May 5, 1889. It cost over \$30,000.

The good people of Heber, who had toiled and sacrificed to build the tabernacle, took special pains to furnish and maintain it. For many years the floors were scrubbed and bleached with homemade soap; homemade carpets were carefully laid down the aisles and the hard benches were sanded, smoothed and polished.

Coal oil lamps were hung from the ceiling, and finally a large bell was placed in the tower. The surrounding grounds were landscaped and cottonwood trees were planted.

The tabernacle is used each summer nowadays as a pioneer playhouse.

Heber Valley has changed from agricultural to the tourist industry. The valley has much to offer tourists in the way of recreation and in a relaxed friendly atmosphere that has grown over the years with the town.



WASATCH COUNTY courthouse (top) and the jail (lower photo), two ancient buildings at Heber which served the people for a long time.